

February 14, 1995 LB 401

in place to ensure a little bit more authority and a little bit greater flexibility on the part of the coordinating committee. And I would be glad to answer any questions that you might have about the coordinating committee and their role. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Madam President. I was on the Health and Human Services Committee and we did hear LB 401. And essentially what we had heard was what Senator Brown said, that this is a coordinating commission that has been established and had, indeed, co-chairs from the Department of Education and the Department of Social Services. Senator Wesely, could you refresh my memory. The...the co-chairs of the Department of Education and Department of Social Services, that is apart from this half-time consultant that will be hired?

SENATOR WESELY: Right.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Okay.

SENATOR WESELY: The consultant would work on the accreditation process, and that would be something the commission would consult, you know, they'd be consulted in it. But it actually would be a function of the Department of Education.

SENATOR PIRSCH: But we went to one chairman, right...

SENATOR WESELY: Right, in terms of the commission.

SENATOR PIRSCH: ...instead of the co? Okay. And we need a half-time consultant for what purpose then?

SENATOR WESELY: The Department of Education has had responsibility for this voluntary accreditation to identify child care centers that have done a little more than the average. And they haven't been able to move forward on that, because they haven't had the staffing, and also some of the statutory clarification that we have in the bill.

SENATOR PIRSCH: So that's why we're adding a half-time, because they are going to have to have a new person then.

SENATOR WESELY: Just...just to make sure, if somebody wants to be accredited, just to check to make sure that it's what they